

## CLAIMS:

1. A starter housing (1) for a gas discharge lamp (3), in particular for motor vehicles, with an outer (5) and an inner housing (10) one arranged inside the other in an assembled state of the starter housing (1), of which the outer housing (5) comprises a metal layer for electromagnetic screening of the inner housing (10), and with an inner housing tube (11) at the inner housing (10) which in the assembled state is surrounded by an outer housing (5) tube arranged at the outer housing (8), said inner housing tube (11) and outer housing tube (8) together forming a plug-in socket (4), wherein reference elements (13; 14) are arranged at the respective tubes (8; 11) of both housings (5; 10) such that they co-operate in the assembled state for defining the positions of the two tubes (8; 11) with respect to one another.

2. A starter housing (1) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a reference body (13) is arranged at the tube (11) of one of the two housings (10), which body (13) in the assembled state bears on an edge of the tube (8) arranged at the other housing (5).

3. A starter housing (1) as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the reference body is formed as a peg (13) which in the assembled state enters with snug fit into a passage (14) or an indentation in the respective other tube (8).

4. A starter housing (1) as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that a peg (13) is arranged at the inner housing tube (11) and enters a hole (14) in the outer housing tube (5).

5. A starter housing (1) as claimed in claim 3 or 4, characterized in that the peg (13) is conical in shape.

6. A starter housing (1) as claimed in claim 4 or 5, characterized in that the peg (13) in the assembled state projects beyond a side of the outer housing tube (8) that faces away from the inner housing tube (11) and is designed such that its projecting length can be removed, in particular can be broken off.

7. A starter housing (1) as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that a peg or a ridge is formed at the outer housing (5) so as to engage a through passage or a groove in the inner housing tube (11)

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8. A starter housing (1) as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 7, characterized in that a plurality of co-operating reference elements (13; 14) are arranged at several sides of the tubes (8;10).

10 9. A starter housing (1) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the reference elements are formed by through passages in both tubes (8; 11), which passages can be brought into alignment during mounting of the starter housing (1) and in which a fixation body can be fixed with snug fit, in particular can be wedged, for defining the positions of the two tubes (8; 11) with respect to one another.

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10. A method of assembling a starter housing (1) which comprises an outer (5) and an inner housing (10), which outer housing (5) is constructed in two parts, while the starter housing (1) comprises a plug-in socket (4) formed by two tubes (8; 11) one arranged inside the other, which tubes are each connected to a respective one of the housings (5; 10), comprising the following steps:

insertion of the inner housing (10) into a first part (6) of the outer housing (5), and providing a second part (7) of the outer housing (5) on the first part (6), wherein the insertion of the inner housing (10) into the first part (6) and/or the provision of the second part (7) takes place such that reference elements (13; 14) present at the tubes (8; 11) co-operate in the assembled state so as to define the positions of the two tubes (8; 11) with respect to one another.

20 11. A lamp with a starter housing (1) as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 9.

25 30 12. A lighting device, in particular a motor vehicle headlight, with a lamp having a starter housing (1) as claimed in any one of the claims 1 to 9.